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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 02871-85
5 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: George Kolt
National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: Berlin Air Corridors Situation

1. There have been two developments of note in the Berlin Air Corridor situation since [] memo to you of 28 May:

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- At the 29 May regular BASC meeting the Soviet controller continued to insist that 10.5 mile geographical limit met Allied space requirements but hinted that his authorities might be willing to add 2 - 3 more miles.
- In Moscow on 31 May the Soviets responded separately but identically to the 5 May demarche of the US, UK and French ambassadors. The Soviets claimed that because the problems which have arisen are technical, they should be and are being resolved at the technical level. More argumentatively they argued that the corridors "were originally assigned by the Soviet Occupation Forces for the needs of the garrisons for the three powers in West Berlin" and that "all the remaining flights are carried out with commercial aims, that is they are in direct contradiction with four power understandings on designation of the corridors and with their legal status."

2. In my view the Soviet move in the BASC indicates they want to get the issue resolved on terms which favor the Soviets but which may also be acceptable to the three Western powers. The British, who were already elated by the 10.5 mile reservation free zone, will undoubtedly take the hint of additional Soviet flexibility as proof that the issue is

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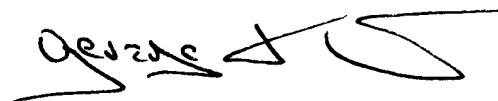
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practically settled and that there is no need for a demonstration flight. For contingency purposes, I think we should nevertheless complete all preparations for possible demonstration flights. At the same time we should realize that the BASC discussions now offer our best hope of redressing the situation and press on vigorously with the discussion in that forum.

3. For the longer term, I am more concerned that there could be a tendency to write off as empty rhetoric the Soviet reassertion that the corridors are intended for military flights only. The Soviets, of course, have said this before and done nothing--just as there is no suggestion now that they plan to take action to enforce their interpretation of the air corridor agreement. But I think it dangerous for any such Soviet assertion to go unrebutted. My suggestion would be for the three Western powers, either in their own capitals or in Moscow, to go back to the Soviets and, while acknowledging that progress is being made in the BASC and could lead to an acceptable solution, reject in very clear terms the Soviet view of what flights can use the corridors.

4. I recommend that you discuss this issue in your meetings with Messrs McFarlane and Damm.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George Kolt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

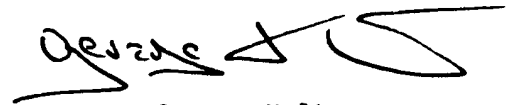
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) 1. Berlin Air Corridors Situation 2. US Policy Toward Greece After Papandreou's Reelection				
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